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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04208.0112

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
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Toshiyasu ITO et al.) Group Art Unit: 2833
)
Application No.: 09/869,784) Examiner: Felix O. Figueroa
)
Filed: October 16, 2001) Confirmation No.: 8751
)
For: CARD CONNECTOR)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AND INTERVIEW

The following Examiner's statement at page 5 of the October 18, 2005 Office
Action is incorrect:

"Please note that in the figure above, the space is defined by
both spaces as shown. Accordingly, partitions 28 do not
extend into the space itself, as defined." [emphasis added].

A "space" is a: "limited extent in one, two, or three dimensions: DISTANCE,
AREA, VOLUME." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, p. 1122.
Here, the claimed "second space" is the "DISTANCE, AREA, VOLUME" defined by
"said first and second side walls." Claims 1, 11, and 21 all expressly require that "no
portion of said base plate extends into said second space."

The Examiner does not dispute that Asakawa's partitions 28 are part of Asakawa's "base plate" and that they "sit between the alleged first and second walls."

Instead, the Examiner argues there are still "spaces" between the walls that are free of the partitions and, hence, these spaces meet the required "second space" limitation of claims 1, 11, and 21.

This is not correct.

Claims 1, 11, and 21 require "a second space," not a plurality of separate spaces, "defined by said first and second side walls." Thus, claims 1, 11, and 21 require a "DISTANCE, AREA, VOLUME" defined by these walls. The "spaces" identified by the Examiner are defined by one side wall and the partitions 28. The DISTANCE, AREA, VOLUME between the Asakawa side walls is invaded by partitions 28 in direct and express contradiction to the claim 1, 11, and 21 requirement that no such partitions "extend into said second space."

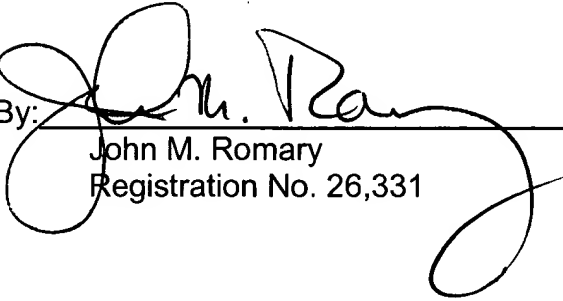
By the Examiner's reasoning, claims 1, 11, and 21 permit the entire DISTANCE, AREA, VOLUME between the walls to be filled with a partition, except for one small "space" between the walls, but not "defined by" the walls. This is not a proper interpretation of these claims.

In view of the apparent miscommunication on this point between the Applicants and the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner to clarify this point.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 13, 2005

By: 
John M. Romary
Registration No. 26,331